



Wayne Smith photo

Navy Band signing in at AutoZone Park

The score sign at AutoZone Park, home of the Memphis Redbirds in downtown Memphis, welcomes the Navy Band Mid-South to Military Appreciation Night at the park. For more photos, see page 3.

NSA MID-SOUTH YOUTH CENTER SCHOOL-AGE CARE PRIORITY PLACEMENT REGISTRATION

Before & After School Program (BASP) '05-'06

Sponsors may register on or after the date listed for their category.

Registration is held Tuesday-Thursday between 8:30 am-2:30 pm.

Alternate registration days & times are available through appointment only.

Non-refundable Family Enrollment Fee (Before School \$7.50/After School \$12/Before & After School \$18.50) is applied to first weekly fee.

For further information, call 874-5155.

CATEGORY	BASP '05-'06 REG. BEGINS	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED All YC paperwork*, copy of shot record, <u>plus</u> copies of the following:
1 Single Active Duty	Ongoing	LES & Family Care Plan
2 Dual Active Duty	Ongoing	LESs & Family Care Plan
3 Active Duty w/working spouse	Ongoing	LES & pay stub
4 Active Duty w/student spouse	22 June	LES & proof of registration and/or grade report
5 Single DoD	23 June	LES & separation/divorce papers
6 Dual DoD	28 June	LESs
7 DoD w/working spouse	29 June	LES & pay stub
8 DoD w/student spouse	30 June	LES & proof of registration and/or grade report
9 Active Duty w/non-working spouse	5 July	LES
10 DoD w/non-working spouse	6 July	LES
11 DoD Contractors	7 July	Pay stub(s) & supporting documents if necessary
12 Active Duty Coast Guard	12 July	LES & pay stub(s)

In the event that two sponsors' priority is equal, date and order of enrollment will determine placement on active or waiting list.

*Current and returning participants will need to update their file. New participants can pick-up the paperwork at the Youth Center (Bldg. 936) or print the necessary paperwork from the Youth Center section of the MWR website: mwmemphis.navy.mil

Newsbriefs

TRICARE Reserve Select

Do you think you or someone you know may qualify for TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS)? National Guard and Reserve members must follow a three-step process to get TRS coverage: Enter into the Service Agreement; execute the Service Agreement; purchase TRS. As of June 16, 2005, more than 6,000 National Guard and Reserve members have entered into a Service Agreement and another 896 have purchased TRS health care coverage. To determine TRS eligibility, members may visit the TRICARE Web site at: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/index.cfm>.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Doctor and dental bills breaking your budget? The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) may help pay those bills for medically-necessary treatment at civilian clinics, doctors' offices and hospitals. If you are on active duty and are eligible, and enrolled in the Family Member Dental Plan, the society can assist with the cost of dental work. The society can also help your family defray the cost of essential medical care beyond the scope of military hospitals, or outside TRICARE and/or MEDICARE coverage. Inquire at your local NMCRS office today: call 874-7350.

The NMCRS is a valuable resource to Sailors, Marines and their families. For more information or assistance in any way, please call 874-7350 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are encouraged. The hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Thrift Shop, located at building S-239, is open Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sewer line projects

Public Works and ROICC Field Office Memphis will soon begin sewer line replacement projects, including replacement of lines west of the Helmsman Complex and extending northward to Bldg. S-454, NSA Mid-South Bachelor Quarters. This project should begin no earlier than the 27th of June and will last roughly four weeks. Approximately 30 feet of the parking lot west of the Helmsman Complex will be affected by the project and will be barricaded off to keep pedestrians clear and provide necessary room for construction. Temporary road and parking lot closures will occur between June 27 and July 29 and will be identified by signs, flags and flashing markers. Please be patient. Any road closure should be temporary. For safety reasons, all personnel are reminded to remain well clear of all construction zones without prior permission of the ROICC resident engineer or the project engineering technician.



Straughan



Dunn

Straughan assumes command of NSA Mid-South from Dunn

In a change-of-command ceremony to be held on June 24, Capt. Matt Straughan will assume the duties as NSA Mid-South commanding officer from Capt. Helen F. Dunn.

Dunn took command of NSA Mid-South two years ago. Under her tenure, NSA Mid-South achieved Most Efficient Organization status without resorting to formal reduction-in-force measures, and met significantly increased support demands despite a 21 percent drop in manning.

Also during Dunn's command, \$915,000 in security upgrades were completed, including perimeter lighting, pop-up barrier systems, a base-wide alert system, security fencing, cameras, planters, stand-off clearing and force protection upgrades for several tenant command buildings. There were \$1.6 million in fitness center renovations and \$1.5 million in gym renovations, establishing both as state-of-the art facilities. Also, Capehart Housing received a two-year, \$9 million whole-house renovation, and the bachelor quarters received \$220,000 in furnishing upgrades and \$160,000 in resident kitchen facilities.

Environmental stewardship under Dunn's command produced nearly 2,045 tons of recycled materials, compiling a positive income of more than \$120,000 for MWR and reducing landfill disposal fees by more than \$100,000. Fence-line clearing operations produced mulch used for nature trail and Eagle Scout projects, while more than \$30,000 was used to plant native flora, reforest open areas and reduce grounds maintenance costs.

An aggressive demolition program directed by Dunn, recognized as one of the best in the Navy, eliminated more than 346,000 square feet in seven barracks buildings, the old veterinary clinic, a fuel storage tank and 380 Wherry Housing units. This reduced infrastructure, maintenance and utility costs on the obsolete facilities and contributed to over 2.25M square feet of total footprint reduction since 1996.

Dunn's next assignment will be at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., where she will serve as the deputy/chief of staff, which is the principal advisor to the superintendent, responsible for the daily operations and administrative functions of the Naval Academy.

Her relief graduated from Mercer University with a bachelor of arts degree in 1981. Straughan was commissioned as a naval officer after completing Aviation

Officer Candidate School, earning his naval flight officer (NFO) "Wings of Gold" in August 1982. After training, he reported to the VAQ-133 *Wizards* aboard USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65).

Straughan's first shore tour was as an instructor at VT-86, the advanced flight training squadron for all strike-aircraft-bound NFOs. Straughan's next sea-duty assignment was with the *Black Ravens* of VAQ-135 aboard USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN-72). While there, he made his fourth Western Pacific deployment, taking part in Operation *Southern Watch*.

Straughan's next tour was at the Joint Command and Control Warfare Center at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Following that tour, he earned his master's degree from the Naval War College.

In July 1997, he served as the executive officer of the VAQ-128 *Fighting Phoenixes* from their pre-commissioning through first two deployments to Saudi Arabia. During their first deployment, the *Fighting Phoenixes* conducted combat operations in Operation *Desert Fox* and participated in Operation *Southern Watch*. Straughan assumed command of VAQ-128 in May 1999, and in December 1999, he deployed with VAQ-128 to Incirlik, Turkey, in support of Operation *Northern Watch*. Under his command, VAQ-128 became only expeditionary squadron to ever receive the Radford Award, presented each year to the most outstanding EA-6B squadron in the Navy.

Straughan reported to USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67) to serve as assistant air officer and then air officer. While there, he completed a Mediterranean/Indian Ocean deployment supporting Operation *Enduring Freedom*.

Straughan's most recent assignment before coming to NSA Mid-South was on the staff of Commander Navy Region Southeast, where he served as the operations officer since June 2004 and the public safety program director, responsible for anti-terrorism and force protection, and fire and safety programs for the 15 installations throughout the Southeast Region since August 2004.

The change of command will take place June 24 at 10 a.m. in the NSA Mid-South Gymnasium, on the north side. The guest speaker for the ceremony will be the commander of Navy Region Southeast, Rear Adm. Annette E. Brown. The event is open to the public, and everyone is invited to attend.



Official U.S. Defense Department photos/Julia Wallis photo illustration

Housing restates rules regarding pools and basketball goals

From the Base Housing Office

Basketball goal rules

Rules regarding installation:

- The height will not exceed 12 feet.
- The location of the goal will be adjacent to a driveway or patio. Goals are not authorized in the yard or grass areas. They must be back from the streets and off the sidewalks.
- The goal will not be attached to the quarters structure.

The goal will remain the responsibility of the resident. Upon vacating quarters, the resident must remove the goal and restore the premises to its original condition. No utilities, temporary or otherwise, are permitted for

night playing. Noisy or unruly playing will result in the removal of the goal.

Authorized Housing Office representatives will exercise the right to inspect, recommend changes, and grant approval as required, insuring conformity with the above specifications.

Swimming pools

Children's inflatable and portable wading pools up to eight feet in diameter and 24 inches deep are permitted in the housing areas. Pools must be drained nightly and stored to prevent any mishaps. Children should be supervised at all times.

Commentary

Captain's log

I want to take this time in my last column to thank everyone at NSA Mid-South, both my staff and our tenant commands, for two years of ceaseless support. Tomorrow I'll be handing over the reins to another. Perhaps it's been everyone's professionalism and the focus on the mission that has allowed us to accomplish so much together. Your willingness and desire to always do the right thing have been instrumental in our success.

I want to thank every member of my command, as well as the tenant commands, for your support and professionalism during my tenure. It's been a learning experience, and I hope that all of you have learned as much from me as I have learned from work-

ing with all of you. We accomplished a lot together, and I know the future holds much for NSA Mid-South. Some of what's to come will be challenging, but all will be opportunities to excel, and I have confidence you will.

The Mid-South is indeed a special place. I leave here with fond memories and many new friendships. I welcome Capt. Matt Straughan and his family to the Mid-South. It's never easy to leave, but I'm pleased to be able to turn over command to such an outstanding naval officer.

All the best to everyone. It has been an honor and pleasure serving here. I wish all of you nothing less than fair winds and following seas!



Captain Helen F. Dunn

Speaking for the fleet

Navy tops with TSP

By **FLTCM(AW/SW) Jon R. Thompson**
Fleet Master Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Fleet Forces Command

If you had asked me a week ago what Navy enlisted pay grade invested the most in their future, I would have guessed the chiefs. Much to my surprise, I would have been wrong. By percentage, our E-1 to E-3 population leads the way by a long shot, and that tells me our young Sailors today realize investing in their future is a priority to them. It also indicates most of our young Sailors are hearing the TSP message loud and clear at recruit training, in "A" school and at their initial commands.

Currently, more than 53 percent (44,500 of 87,900 Sailors) of our E-3 and below population are enrolled in TSP. This population exceeds any other enlisted pay grade by at least 15 percent. What's even more impressive is how high the Navy percentage is when compared to other services. Forty-one percent of all enlisted Sailors participate in TSP. That's more than 124,000 of us. The service following the closest behind is the Marine Corps with 29 percent. The Air Force weighs in at 21 percent and the Army has only 14percent. Clearly, Sailors understand investing in their future is in their (and their families') best interest.

The enrollment numbers are impressive, and I'm happy to see they keep going up. When you invest in TSP, you invest in your future. As I watch TSP enrollment grow, I know for a fact you are making sound financial decisions. No Sailor should depart the Navy without a nest egg, whether you serve four years or for a career. Unfortunately, I'm not convinced everyone understands the power of investing and how, over time, your money can truly work for you.

Think about this: If you enrolled in TSP when you entered the Navy and invested only \$100 per month, in 20 years, earning a modest six percent interest, you would have \$46,204 in your account. The amount of money you would have contributed would only be \$24,000, meaning you could have almost doubled your money. If you invested \$200 per month, you would have accumulated \$92,408, having only invested \$48,000 of your own dollars. As an added bonus, TSP investments use pre-tax dollars, meaning your contribution is made before your income is taxed, meaning you pay less income tax today. You will only pay interest on your TSP dollars when you withdraw them on retirement.

I'm delighted to see so many of you start investing immediately because as you grow older and become more senior, you will most likely incur more financial obligations. My thought is that if you can start tucking away money early on, you sort of never really come to need that money to make it month to month. It's the, "out of sight, out of mind" philosophy. If you initially invest \$100 per month, and increase that amount every time you advance, you could really achieve some impressive financial goals. Nonetheless, I'd also like to

offer that it's never too late to start investing. My message about TSP is for all Sailors, not just junior Sailors. In my career, I've met far too many chiefs who retired without any financial security.

Currently, the maximum base pay percentage you are allowed to invest in TSP is 10 percent. The minimum amount is one percent. In addition to that investment, TSP allows you to invest special pays as well. For those of you who truly want to maximize participation, if you start investing when you enter the Navy, and maximize your contribution throughout your 20-year career, there is a possibility you could retire a millionaire. Of course, interest rates will most likely be the determining factor in that, but nothing like shooting for the stars, right?

If you're an E-3 over two years, one percent of your base pay is only \$15.47. Ten percent is \$154. If you're an E-5 over four years, one percent of your base pay is only \$20.20. Ten percent is \$202. If you're an E-7 over 10, one percent of your base pay is only \$29.92. Ten percent is \$299. No matter what you can afford to invest, something is definitely better than nothing. I'm quite confident most of us can find a way to live with at least a minimum investment.

On July 1, participating in TSP will be easier than ever before. In the past, you were only allowed to enroll in TSP during "open seasons" that occurred twice a year. You were also only allowed to increase your contribution during these periods. As of July 1, there will be no more open seasons. You will be allowed to enroll or increase contributions all throughout the year. For some of you, this change removes your last excuse for not investing!

For those of you who are concerned that investing in a retirement account might mean you may not have access to those funds in an emergency, TSP has that covered. In the event you need to access your money, you may remove funds in the form of a low-interest loan (usually around four percent). No matter what your emergency is, not many financial institutions would offer you a loan at that low interest rate. The one catch with TSP is you may not borrow more than you have in your account. There's no credit with TSP. Nonetheless, TSP is extremely user-friendly, and your money is accessible should a real need arise.

If you have thought about enrolling in TSP, but have yet to do so, let me make a recommendation: enroll today. What do you have to lose? I'm pretty certain every one of us dreams of financial independence. Unfortunately, if you look at the national statistics, few achieve true financial freedom.

One thing, however, is very obvious. If you don't start investing in your future today, you are losing out on a superb opportunity. I can't think of a single reason why you wouldn't want to participate.



Thompson

Chaplain's corner

Starting over: The pain of divorce

By Chaplain Rob Beede

I really feel for those suffering the pain caused by separation and divorce. I think the heartache divorce brings is similar to the pain felt when a loved one dies. For most people, divorce is worse than death because it adds the sting of rejection to the feelings of sadness and loneliness.

Divorce causes questions to go through a person's mind: Why did they want to leave me? What did I do wrong? Was there someone else?

All these thoughts and feelings can cause a person to do things they normally wouldn't do. I remember one lady who was so angry, she watched as her ex-husband and his new girlfriend went into a

restaurant. While they were eating, she deflated all four tires on his car. Then she hid and waited till he came out to see the look on his face.

There is a better way! If you are hurting from a marital breakup, please know that there is help and hope. As your chaplain, I'd love to meet with you and help you. You need healing, care and acceptance. Most importantly, you need God's help. He knows you and cares about you.

Also, there are also programs that can help. One is called DivorceCare. It is offered at many local churches. Through the help of God and God's people, you can find the help and strength you need to start over after divorce.

Families should take a hands-on approach during Home Safety Month

By **U.S. Congressman John Tanner**

Home dangers are often easy to miss, but for Tennesseans, it is a problem that is too serious to ignore. In fact, Tennessee reported the seventh-highest fatality rates from fires and burns in the home, according to the Home Safety Council's State of Home Safety in America. Tennessee also ranked highly for overall home injury-related fatalities. Nationally, the same study showed home-related injuries result in nearly 21 million medical visits and 20,000 deaths each year with the three leading causes being falls, fires and burns and poisonings.

As a grandfather myself, I know that keeping loved ones safe at home is a daily commitment, and together with the Home Safety Council, I encourage Tennesseans to take action to create a safe home environment. During June, which is Home Safety Month, the Home Safety Council is launching the Hands-On Home Safety campaign, encouraging families to find and fix dangers within the home before an injury occurs.

Following are some ways in which you can be hands-on with home safety this month and throughout the year:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and test them monthly.
- Create a fire escape plan for your family that shows two exits out of every room, and where to meet outside.



Practice makes perfect -- hold a family fire drill at least twice each year.

- Always stay in the kitchen while food is cooking on the stove.
- All stairs and steps need handrails along both sides, secured along the full length of the stairway. Keep stairs and pathways clear of clutter. In homes with babies and toddlers, use baby gates at the top and bottom of stairs.
- Install lighting at the top and bottom of stairs.
- Install grab bars in bath and shower stalls, and use a non-slip mat or adhesive safety strips inside bathtubs and showers.
- Post emergency numbers next to every phone in your home.
- Install child locks on all cabinets used to store dangerous items.
- Keep your water heater setting at 120 degrees Fahrenheit or less.
- If you have a pool, install four-sided pool fencing with self-locking and self-closing gates. Fencing should completely isolate the pool from the home and be at least five feet high.
- Practice tough supervision -- stay within arm's length and constantly supervise children in or near water such as pools, ponds, bathtubs and buckets.
- Simple steps can help us all reduce the number of home-related injuries in Tennessee and keep our families safer. For more information, visit www.homesafetycouncil.org or www.house.gov/tanner.

County Health Department to conduct HIV testing

The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department will observe National HIV Testing Day, Monday, June 27 by offering free HIV counseling and testing from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The 11th National HIV Testing Day campaign brings the "Take the Test, Take Control" message to a diverse group of people and communities.

Participation in HIV antibody counseling and testing is a critical step in an individual's decision to take control and responsibility over one's life.

Free and confidential HIV counseling and testing will be conducted at the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department's Packer Clinic, located at 814 Jefferson Avenue, Memphis, room 221. No appointments are needed for HIV and syphilis testing not requiring a physical examination. Appointments are nec-

essary for sexually transmitted disease (STD) physical examinations and may be scheduled by calling 544-7552.

Also the Monday of the HIV Testing Day, the Health Department's STD/HIV/AIDS Education Program will provide information, giveaways and refreshments. Bilingual Spanish-English Interpreters will also be available.

As part of this vital campaign, the Health Department strongly urges individuals to obtain counseling on behavioral practices that increases one's opportunity to be infected, and to take the HIV test to determine their status.

Individuals are at high risk for infection if they have had unprotected sex (vaginal, anal or oral) (especially if there has been more than one partner within any six-month period); received a blood transfusion prior to 1985; shared needles or syringes to inject drugs, or

shared needles to conduct body piercing or tattooing.

In addition, females of childbearing age who are at risk for HIV infection are especially urged to get tested. From 1981 to 2004, 506 infants were born to mothers in Shelby County with HIV and/or AIDS. Fortunately, in 50 percent of the cases, the mother received antiretroviral medications prior to or during pregnancy that proved to reduce transmission of the virus to the infant. Anyone pregnant or planning to have a child owes it to themselves and their baby to be tested as soon as possible.

For more information, contact the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department STD/HIV/AIDS Education Program at (901) 544-7405 or (901) 544-7329.



Quote noted

When you win, nothing hurts.

-- Joe Namath, U.S. football quarterback

The lovely thing about being forty is that you can appreciate twenty-five-year-old men more.

-- Colleen McCullough, Australian writer

One day when he was eating a cookie he offered me a bite. Don't underestimate that. The poor guy's so frightened of germs, it could darn near have been a proposal.

-- Jean Harlow, U.S. actor, on Howard Hughes

Is it progress if a cannibal uses a fork? -- Stanislaw Lec, Polish writer

A common mistake people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools.

-- Douglas Adams, English writer

If hard work were such a wonderful thing, surely the rich would have kept it all to themselves.

-- Lane Kirkland, U.S. union leader

Cosmetics is a boon to every woman, but a girl's best friend is still a nearsighted man.

-- Yoko Ono, Japanese artist

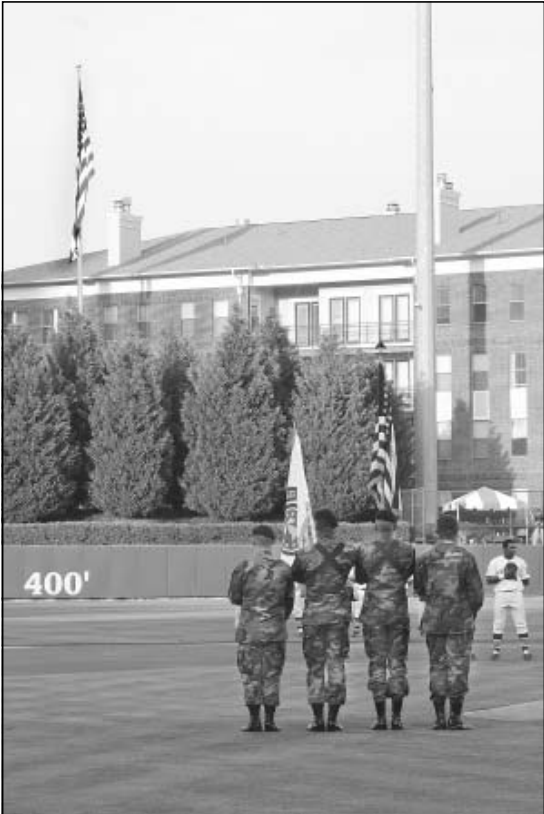


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Members of the U.S. Army Recruiting station provide colors for opening ceremonies.



"Rocky" (left), the Redbirds' official mascot, welcomes Dunn to the night's festivities.



Members of the U.S. Navy "Crackerjacks" march onto the field while the audience stands in recognition of their service to their country.



Capt. Helen F. Dunn, commanding officer, NSA Mid-South, throws out the first pitch for the Redbirds' Military Appreciation Night at AutoZone Park, Memphis.



Navy Band Mid-South performs the National Anthem to give the crowd a taste of the musical talent contained within the military services.

Redbirds' baseball honors veterans during Military Appreciation Night ceremonies

Story and photos
by Wayne Smith

Memphis' own AAA baseball team, the Memphis Redbirds, saluted members of all the military branches Friday, June 17, at their AutoZone Park facilities in downtown Memphis.

Baseball fans present for Military Appreciation Night were treated to performances by Navy Band Mid-South, the Flying Rifles drill demonstration team from Naval Air Technical Training Center, Pensacola, Fla., and booths featuring information on Army recruiting, the National Guard and the U.S. Navy.

Captain Helen F. Dunn, commanding officer, NSA Mid-South, threw out the opening pitch to begin the night's honors.



U.S. Army recruits demonstrate marching drill maneuvers for guests of Military Appreciation Night at last Friday night's Redbirds game.



A booth featuring a larger-than-lifefigure of a National Guard volunteer greets visitors outside the ball park.



The precision rifle demonstration team, the "Flying Rifles," render their weapons airborne during several amazing moves. The team consists of members of Naval Air Technical Training Center students, stationed in Pensacola, Fla.

Navy Mutual Aid Association launches survivor benefits resource

If you die in the line of duty, do you know what benefits are available for your family? Are you are nearing retirement and trying to make your Survivor Benefit Plan decision? Have you been assigned as a casualty officer and need help explaining the benefits available to the surviving spouse?

Help is now available 24 hours a day for all of these situations. Service members can now access personal government survivor benefit information anytime of day via the Navy Mutual Aid Association's (NMAA) Web site: www.navymutual.org. The association has installed three calculators for your use. These calculators can provide personalized analysis of the benefits available from the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Social Security Administration. To access these calculators, simply click on the new "24/7 Survivor Benefits Analysis" button on NMAA's home page.

For those service members who are within two to three years of retirement, the Baseline Analysis Calculator provides assistance for making an informed Survivor Benefit Plan decision. The Survivor Entitlements And Benefits-At-A-Glance (SeaBAAG) Calculator provides an estimate of the benefits in place for a service member's

family if they were to die today in the line of duty. For service members who are assigned duties as a Casualty Assistance Officer, the CACO Benefits Summary Calculator provides an excellent benefits estimate for briefing a deceased service member's survivors on their benefits.

Navy Mutual Aid Association is a Veterans Benefits Association which has served sea service members and their families since 1879. The Association feels that is very important that sea service members and their families understand their survivor benefits. Current survivor benefit information is posted on their Web site, and these new calculators can personalize the data for a member's family.

An excellent way to learn about these important benefits is to attend one of the association's Entitlements and Benefits presentations. They have a professional, comprehensive one-hour presentation that is available to commands at no cost to the command. Attendees receive a compact benefit summary as a handout and a valuable resource CD-ROM. If you would like to schedule a presentation for your group, contact NMAA's Director of Education, Cmdr. Brian Daugherty, USN Ret., at 880-628-6011 ext. 107, or e-mail them at presentations@navymutual.org.

Sexual assault victims have more choices, confidentiality

By JO1 Teresa J. Frith, NPC Communications Office

According to a study conducted by the National Victim Center in Arlington, Va., 78 women in the United States are raped every hour. Men, as well as women, can be victims of sexual assault.

Military members are also not immune to sexual assault. "Over 1,000 service members were sexual assault victims in 2002 and 2003, and it is one of the most under-reported crimes in America," said Steve Zahl, a senior policy analyst with Navy Personnel Command, Quality of Life Policy Division.

One of the most significant barriers to reporting is the victim's fear of punishment for his/her own associated conduct. Fear of embarrassment or harassment might also occur if their name is released during an official investigation, which can leave victims feeling more victimized and less likely to report an attack.

In an effort to get more people to report these crimes, the Department of Defense has instituted changes in the reporting process that gives victims access to medical care, counseling and victim advocacy, without initiating the investigative process -- unrestricted versus restricted reporting.

Unrestricted reporting allows the victim to choose to report an assault through current reporting channels, i.e., the chain of command, command sexual assault victim intervention representative, law enforcement, or installation sexual assault response coordinator, formerly called the Sexual Assault Victim Intervention program coordinator. It provides for a full official investigation and sets into motion procedures for involving the command and other entities.

In contrast, restricted reporting permits the victim to tell only specified individuals without triggering mandatory command notification or an official investigation. Alleged incidents are reported to the SARC, the responsible sexual assault victim advocate, a health care provider or a chaplain. If a victim discloses information to anyone besides these individuals, it may result in command notification and investigation. If the assault is disclosed to the command from an outside source (e.g. a local law enforcement agency), the command is also obligated to report the incident to Naval Criminal Investigative Services.

"The Department of Defense is committed to forming policy that will provide a confidential reporting process for sexual assault victims," said Dr. David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel readiness. "We want to create a different climate where our people feel comfortable coming forward. If you offer confidentiality, you increase the reporting rate."

In the past, if a victim elected not to report an assault, the commanding officer has no information that one occurred. With the new, restricted reporting, they will be informed of the assault, and provided as much information as possible without identifying the individuals. This will give a clearer picture of violent crimes in that area, while still protecting the confidentiality of the victim.

In both cases, health care providers will provide appropriate care and treatment, but in the case of restricted reporting, they would report the assault to the installation SARC, instead of law enforcement officials or the command. Confidentiality of medical information will be maintained regardless of which reporting method the victim chooses, but can be provided to a disability board for cases involving determination of fitness of duty.

When a victim files a restricted report, there are limited circumstances under which the information can be given to either the command or law enforcement. These include: written authorization by the victim exists; disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious/imminent threat to health or safety; disclosure is required for the supervision of direct victim services by the SARC, responsible victim advocate or health care provider; disclosure is required by federal or state statute or is ordered by military or civilian courts.

SARCs must now give victims information and clarification on both reporting methods. Victims will have to sign a statement that they understand that restricted reporting limits the protective actions that can be taken without command notification, and that it may hinder the government's ability to prosecute the alleged perpetrator.

"The Navy is fully committed to the well-being of sexual assault victims - to counsel them on what choices are available, and to ensure they are afforded the opportunity to be in control of the situation," Zahl said.

According to Zahl, the Navy understands the possible circumstances of this new reporting system. "DoD and Navy leadership recognize the potential impact of restricted reporting on investigations and the ability of the command to hold perpetrators accountable," he said. "These risks were carefully considered and were outweighed by the overall interests of providing sexual assault victims access to medical care and support. Despite these changes, neither the victim nor the assailant is immune to prosecution and disclosed information can be used in disciplinary proceedings."

Vice Adm. Gerald Hoewing, chief of naval personnel, stated, "Sexual assault is a crime that seriously erodes mission readiness. These changes are necessary to improve our program and help achieve our goal of zero tolerance for sexual assaults, while providing maximum support, protection, and care for those Sailors and family members who are victims of sexual assault."




Warren Roseborough photo



First South Credit Union makes a donation

A check was presented to Captain Helen F. Dunn (holding check), commanding officer, NSA Mid-South, by First South Credit Union for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. Presenting the check, pictured from left to right, are Gaylon Hall, Jim Phillips and Herb Stacy, all officers of First South.



This check is presented annually by the credit union from a golf tournament which they sponsor at the Glen Eagle Golf Course, NSA Mid-South. On Tuesday, June 21, Dunn presented the check to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society in person.



The Navy Ball Committee is PUMPING GAS FOR THE NAVY BALL BLAST



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